

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

OCT 28 1992

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name O'Bier House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Webster Parish Hwy 114 N/A not for publication

city or town Minden vicinity

state Louisiana code LA county Webster code 119 zip code 71055

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jonathan Fricker October 23, 1992
Signature of certifying official/Title Jonathan Fricker, Deputy SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
Date
State of Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Arlene Byer

11/27/92

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

other: log dogtrot

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls log

roof shake

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

O'Bier House, Webster Parish, LA
Section number 7 Page 1

The O'Bier House (c.1850) is a log dogtrot located on the grounds of the Germantown Colony Museum (N. R.) in rural Webster Parish. It was moved to the present site in the mid-1980s. The O'Bier House shares a rural setting with two antebellum log buildings from the Germantown Colony, a small utopian community established in the 1830s. Also on the property is a reproduction log building and a board and batten shed built in the 1970s with salvaged parts. Despite the move and the fact that it is not completely restored to its original appearance, the house retains its Register eligibility as a rare surviving antebellum log dogtrot.

As originally built, the house was a log dogtrot with a room on either side of an open corridor. It was constructed of half round logs with square notching. The pitched roof originally encompassed full porches front and rear.

As often happened with log dogtrots, the original house was encased in a later house. It was covered with roughly eight inch boards (flush boards on the facade and clapboards elsewhere), the dogtrot corridor was enclosed, windows and doors were added to the front, and a new roof was built. The interior was sheathed in roughly ten inch boards. This remodeling must have occurred before about 1880, given the use of square nails. Also, at some time, a rear wing had been added.

The Webster Parish Police Jury, the owner of the Germantown Colony Museum, moved the O'Bier House from its original location near Shongaloo (same parish) in order to save it. The owner had contacted the police jury, telling them she would donate the house if it was removed from the property. Otherwise, it would be demolished.

The building was moved to the Germantown Colony grounds with the intention of restoring it to its original c.1850 appearance. Some work has been done, and the police jury intends to complete the project as funds become available. The exterior siding and the rear wing have been removed, and the dogtrot corridor has been re-opened. The original roofline was evident from surviving pole framing members. It was rebuilt using the original pole framing members on the section that covers the core, while new poles were used in the sections covering the porches. The porches themselves are yet to be rebuilt. The ten inch boards on the interior remain as does the altered front fenestration pattern. Also, the mud chimneys need to be rebuilt. Finally, the original mantels were gone. The intent is to replace them based upon the type of mantels found in other log houses of the period.

CONTINUED

**United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

O'Bier House, Webster Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 2

Assessment of Integrity

The central integrity issue is that the O'Bier House in its current condition is neither completely from one period or another. In short, it never existed historically as it does today. The intent is to restore the house to its original c.1850 appearance, but the work is not complete. Correcting the front fenestration pattern will probably have to be conjectural based upon other dogtrots from the period in the area. It would require replacing the pieces of log which were removed when the new openings were cut. Removing the interior sheathing, of course, will be a simple task. The appearance of the front and rear porches will have to be conjectural based on surviving examples in the area.

Even with this integrity issue, the house is a viable Register candidate in the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Office. The character defining core configuration (i.e., two rooms separated by an open corridor) is intact. Because antebellum log dogtrots with any degree of integrity are so rare within Louisiana, the O'Bier House is very important, despite the problems outlined previously.

The move has not adversely affected the building's Register eligibility because the house is significant within the context of Louisiana, and the new setting is not inappropriate. The setting is still rural, although originally the O'Bier House was by itself rather than within a fenced enclosure with other buildings. The accompanying site plan and photos show the relationship between the buildings.

O'Bier House
Name of Property

Webster Parish, LA
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

architecture

Period of Significance

c.1850

Significant Dates

c.1850

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

O'Bier House
Name of Property

Webster Parish, LA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than an acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 15 | 478400 | 3617840 |
Zone Easting Northing
2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
Zone Easting Northing
4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Please refer to sketch map.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title National Register Staff

organization Division of Historic Preservation date June 1992

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 342-8160

city or town Baton Rouge state LA zip code 70804

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Webster Parish Police Jury

street & number P. O. Box 389 telephone (318) 377-7564

city or town Minden state Louisiana zip code 71058-0389

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

O'Bier House, Webster Parish, LA
Section number 8 Page 1

The O'Bier House is of state significance in the area of architecture as a rare surviving example of a once common building type in Louisiana. The historic context is the Upland South building tradition of the state.

Appalachian Uplanders were the dominant cultural group to settle northern Louisiana, sections of the Florida Parishes, and areas of west central Louisiana. Settlement began in the early nineteenth century, but nothing survives from this early period. (The earliest extant buildings are from the 1840s and '50s.)

One of the architectural hallmarks of the Upland South Culture is the dogtrot house. In fact, log dogtrots like the O'Bier House are rightly regarded as the "emblem" of Louisiana's Upland South Culture. The dogtrot was a very popular house type, and just about any large farm probably would have had one. While there are several dozen surviving dogtrots in Louisiana, it is extremely rare to find one from the antebellum period and one with its dogtrot corridor still open. The O'Bier House is one of less than a dozen antebellum log dogtrots remaining in Louisiana that retain their open passageways. The loss is quite dramatic when one considers that in the 1830s, '40s and '50s hundreds of them were built.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

O'Bier House, Minden vicinity, Webster Parish, LA

Section number 9 **Page** 1

Inspection by National Register staff.

Photos showing house when it was first moved to its present location -- before restoration work began.

Interview with M. S. "Digger" O'Dell, President, Webster Parish Police Jury. Mr. O'Dell was involved in the move and initial restoration work.

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National Register of Historic Places

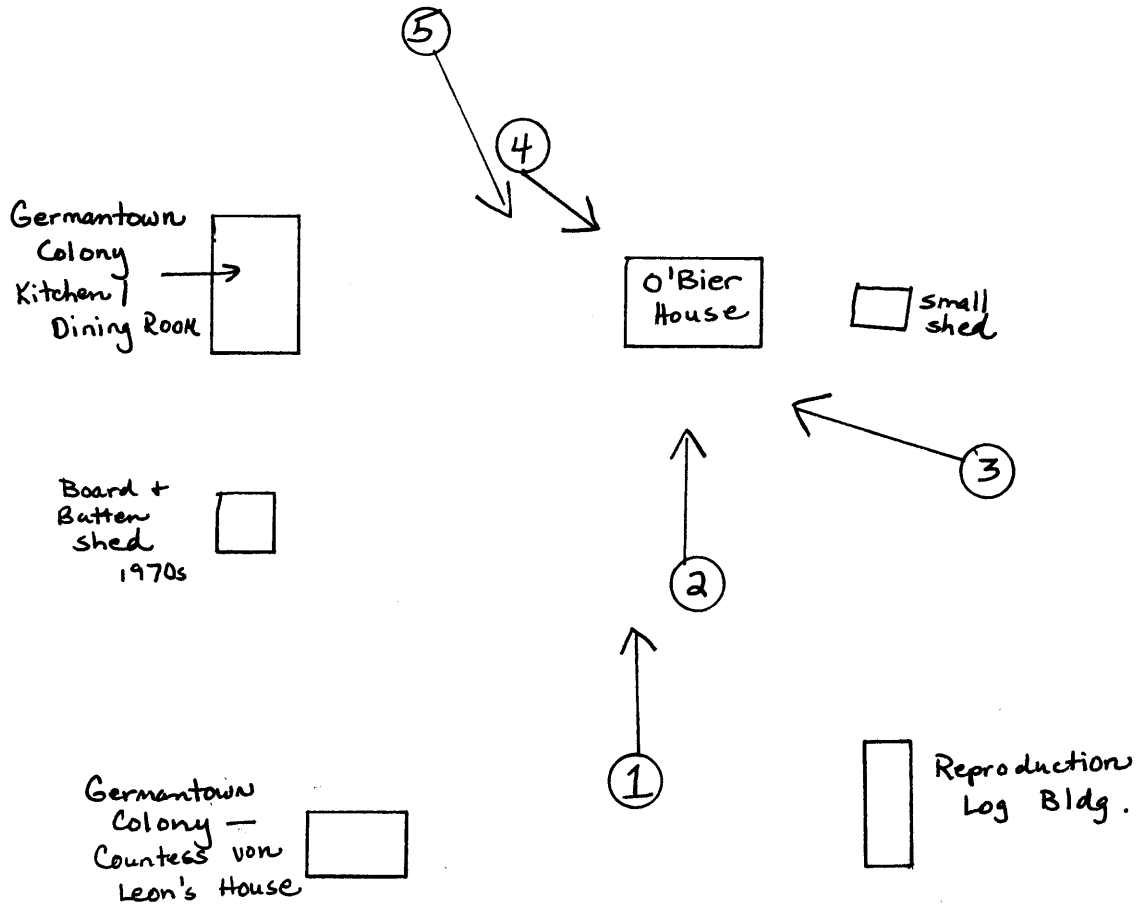
Continuation Sheet

O'Bier House, Webster Parish, LA

Section number 10 Page 1

Boundary Justification

Boundaries were drawn to discretely encompass this moved building. The nominated area is adjacent to and may overlap the nominated acreage of the Germantown Register listing. It is impossible to be sure because of the inadequate boundary information in the nomination papers.

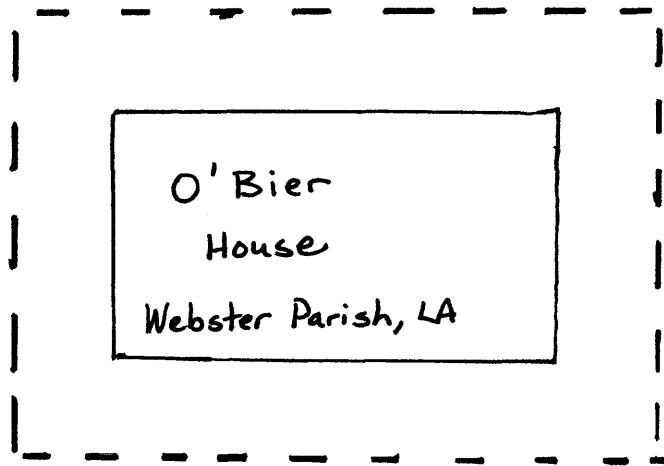


Rough Sketch Map

Germantown Colony Museum

(to accompany O'Bier House nomination, Webster Parish, LA)

BOUNDARY MAP



$$1'' = 20'$$

--- BOUNDARY

